



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 016887/1013

Applicant: Hiroyuki FUSE

Title: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

Appl. No.: 09/671,153

Filing Date: September 28, 2000

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Art Unit: Not yet assigned

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to applicant in order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. A copy of each of the listed documents is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98.

The submission herewith of any document is not intended as an admission either that such document constitutes competent prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Applicant does not waive the right to take appropriate action to antedate any document that does not constitute a statutory bar and that is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application, or to otherwise remove such a document as a competent reference.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No fee is due. However, in the event that the Patent Office determines that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to withdraw such a fee from applicant's Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

RELEVANCE OF THE DOCUMENTS

Document A5 discloses a method of causing the visibility of the tracking pattern to be low and keeping the liability of deciphering the tracking pattern to be high.

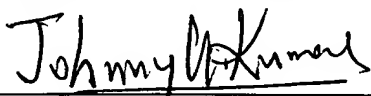
Document A6 discloses a method of specifying the image processing apparatus from a reproduced image by means of adding the specific pattern to the output image signal.

English translations of documents A5 and A6 are not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). English language abstracts are provided for documents A5 and A6. Applicant also notes that documents A1-A4 are U.S. Patent counterparts of document A6.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609.

May 8, 2001
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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